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SUBJECT: FINLAND: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO ASSIST IRAQI REFUGEES

REF: STATE 30028

[1](#)1. (U) PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Leena Pylvanainen, Regional Manager of the Finnish MFA's Office of Middle East and North Africa, and to Ilkka Rentola, Counsellor, Unit for Human Rights Policy and Irma Lescelius, Unit for Humanitarian Assistance, April 2. Pylvanainen said Finland allocated one million euros last week to the UNHCR supplementary appeal for Iraq. She added that an additional 800,000 euros will go to WHO as part of a related UN health appeal. The GoF made a further contribution in January 2008 earmarked for assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Iraq via the UN Trust Fund. She noted that Finland, in addition to bilateral contributions, also continues to contribute via the EU.

[1](#)2. (U) Rentola stated that Finland resettles approximately 750 UNHCR referral refugees annually. In 2007, approximately 200 of those were Iraqis who came via Amman and Damascus. As of February, Finland resettled 56 Iraqi UNHCR referrals, and hopes to resettle a total of 300 in [1](#)2008. Finland also accepted an additional 127 Iraqi asylum applicants in 2007 that did not come via UNHCR referral.
HYATT